

REMARKS

Claims 7-12 are pending and these claims were finally rejected as follows: (1) claims 7 and 10 as unpatentable over Thomin et al in view of Boedecker et al; (2) claims 7 and 10 again as unpatentable over Hope et al in view of Boedecker et al; and (3) claims 8, 9, 11 and 12 as unpatentable over Hope et al in view of Boedecker et al and Eckmann.

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

The references do not teach bellows with ridge-like folds. See Figs. 5A-5C.

In a state wherein the bellows contracts, the upper lamella portion of each ridge-like fold is inclined at the same angle as is the lower lamella portion. So, in the contracting state, the angle of downward inclination of the lower lamella portion never becomes gentle. It is always maintained at a predetermined angle of inclination. Also, even when the bellows extends, the lower lamella portion can possibly be inclined at an acute angle, but never at a gentle angle. As a result, the efficiency of discharging slurry is high. In other words, the lower lamella portion is always downwardly inclined toward the axis, so that even when using a liquid containing a sediment material such as a slurry, the bellows can prevent the liquid from stagnating in the recess portion of the bellows when the pump stops.

When the bellows extends, the upper lamella portion is variable from a downward inclination state to an upward inclination state. As the amount of the variation increases, the elasticity of the upper lamella portion can increase. With the aid of this elasticity, contraction of the bellows can be positively helped. In other words, contraction of the bellows can occur at higher pressure (or speed) than the bellows whose edge section is formed in the shape of "<." This result more effectively discharges the liquid containing slurry, which remains in the recess

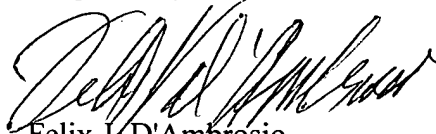
portion of the bellows, to the outside recess portion, and can increase pump pressure, i.e., the pressure for discharging the liquid containing the slurry, and this applies even to liquid containing slurry whose specific gravity is high. It too can be efficiently discharged. As a result, even a compact pump can provide higher discharge power, which in the semiconductor field, is preferable.

None of these advantages can, it is respectfully submitted, be achieved with the designs of the art of record.

To insure clarity, claims 7 and 10 have been amended to better distinguish the invention over the art of record.

In view of the foregoing, the examiner is urged to reconsider her rejection of claims 7-12 in the examination of this RCE application and find claims 7-12 allowable.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Felix J. D'Ambrosio', written in dark ink.

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